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Ward 5 Newsletter

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October 2012

Dedication of Luis Gutierrez Bridge

Named for a local man who built many bridges to bring our community together, Luis Gutierrez, who I am proud to say is a Ward 5 resident and one of my neighbors, served our community for 34 years making our city a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Mr. Gutierrez rose to the top level of city government, presiding as city manager 1996 to 1999 to cap a career with the City of Tucson for more than 30 years.

During his time working for our City, Mr. Gutierrez worked to build bridges of communication and cooperation between city government and the people, as well as between the communities that make up the Old Pueblo.

Mr. Gutierrez retired in 1999, to spend time with his family and grandchildren. In his retirement, he didn't stop working for his community. He worked to place Proposition 400 on the Tucson ballot in 1999, a measure designed to strengthen the City's investment in the west side and spearhead downtown revitalization in ways that both reflect and honor Tucson's history.

In addition, Mr. Gutierrez worked to improve the quality of life in the Miles Neighborhood and Barrio San Antonio Area with projects that included work on Miles School and the Miles School Park improvement.

Gutierrez defended the city and didn't flinch in whatever battles sprouted with other governments.

A Tucson High School and University of Arizona graduate, Gutierrez was the third Hispanic to have the city's top job since 1973.

This bridge will forever exist as a fitting legacy for a man who has given more than six decades to the town he loves and calls home.



Councilman Fimbres with Mr. Luis Gutierrez



Dedication of Luis Gutierrez Bridge

Our thanks also goes to Ashton Construction, for constructing this structure that bridges Tucson and its west side and will provide a passage way for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, as well as buses and the streetcar. Ashton Construction is a Tucson business located in Ward 5 that is marking its 66th year of operations in the Old Pueblo. One hundred Tucsonans worked to build this wonderful bridge, named for a man who worked hard to bring our community together.

Tucson Marketplace at the Bridges News

Wal-Mart Opening

The Wal-Mart Super Center at the Bridges opened their doors Friday, October 26. Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild was present as well as Kal Patel and Scott Doepke from Wal-Mart Corporate Offices. Fifteen community organizations received checks from Wal-Mart as part of their effort to give back to their local community.

"The opening of the Wal-Mart is another step in the Renaissance of Ward 5, providing many opportunities for residents of Ward 5, as well as for the City of Tucson," Councilmember Fimbres said.

Councilmember Fimbres went on to say, "I want to thank Rick Velasco, Wal-Mart's District Manager and Brian Schield, the new manager of the Wal-Mart at the Bridges, for going the extra mile for meeting with and working with the four surrounding neighborhoods. This resulted in many of the neighbors from Las Vistas, Western Hills, Pueblo Gardens and South Park working at the Wal-Mart."

The opening of the new Wal-Mart created 300 new jobs for Ward 5 and Tucson.

UA BioPark Dedication

On Thursday, October 11, a celebration took place at the University of Arizona BioPark, marking another milestone for this project with the completion of the infrastructure.

More than 150 were in attendance for this celebration, including Matthew Erskine, acting Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration, Congressman Raul Grijalva and Congressman Ron Barber, Bruce Wright and Molly Gilbert with the University of Arizona Tech Park, University of Arizona President Dr. Ann Weaver Hart, Chair of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, Ramon Valadez and Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild.

With the work of the infrastructure completed, the 54-acre Bio Park can now proceed in working to build and develop laboratory and office space, a science and technical high school and a hotel and conference center.

The day also marked the dedication of a special mural created by Las Artes which incorporates science, bioscience and technology into the design. For more than three decades, Las Artes has been a special program bet-



Top: Store Manager Brian Shields addresses crowd. Bottom: community organization Tucson Troops



Councilman Fimbres with Las Artes students

Tucson Marketplace at the Bridges News

tering the lives of our young people.

Maggie Gerring, Willie Blake, Charlotte Cruz, Cindy Ayala, James Christopher, Bette Trahan, Pat Garcia, Christine Curtis, and Bernice Vanover worked hard with the U of A on this project, Ward 5 and the City of Tucson owes them a debt of gratitude for their work, commitment and support to see this project through to where it stands today.

Curacao Grand Opening

Curacao held a ribbon cutting ceremony and tour of their newest store, located at 3390 S. Sixth Avenue in the Southgate Shopping Center. The Tucson location will be Curacao's eleventh store.

"Curacao will be providing more than 200 jobs, as well as opportunities for our entire community," said Ward 5 Councilmember Richard Fimbres, during his welcoming speech to the guests assembled, including other elected officials, Curacao Executives and other dignitaries.

Curacao is a leading large format retail department store chain ranking consistently among the top 50 consumer electronics retailers in the U.S.



"Curacao made its mark as a store that early on recognized the purchasing power of the growing Latino community when it opened its first stores in California, more than thirty years ago," Councilmember Fimbres went on to say in his remarks.

The Hispanic market in the United States has an estimated purchasing power of nearly \$1 trillion and according to the 2010 U.S. Census; the Hispanic population topped more than 50 million people. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, more than 47% of Tucson's population is of Hispanic origin.

"I want to thank Curacao's owners and founders, Ron and Jerry Azarkman, Rick Hutton President of Retail and the team for the Curacao corporate officers for believing in Tucson. I also want to thank the management and new staff of Curacao at the Southgate shopping center in Ward 5 for their work in getting this new location of a growing company open for business," Councilmember Fimbres said.

Curacao's commitment to their customers goes beyond what they offer on their shelves. Curacao Children's Foundation provides direct assistance to families in need who are referred by local government agencies, schools, churches, and other organizations. Families recommended to their foundation are contacted directly by their staff, have their needs assessed and provided with products from their stores.

"Curacao will provide a sense of hope and opportunity not only for those employed, but for its clientele and the Hispanic Community for Tucson and Pima County," Councilmember Fimbres said.

"This store and ribbon cutting shows that Tucson is open for business," Councilmember Fimbres added.

Golden Eagle & Trillium CNG Open in Tucson

Both Golden Eagle and Trillium CNG officially opened a compressed natural gas station in Casa Grande, between Tucson and Phoenix, late last month.

The public fueling station in Tucson, on Ajo Way not far from the airport, will support Golden Eagle's local fleet of 23 heavy duty CNG beer trucks and provide CNG to commercial fleets and retail consumers with CNG-equipped vehicles. Currently, Golden Eagle's fleet of trucks are leased from Ryder System.

"We've made the commitment to use CNG in our local operations and to support sustainability in this community by opening a public CNG station," Golden Eagle CEO Christopher Clements said in a release.

"Through our partnerships with Ryder and Trillium, we are able to take advantage of both the cost savings and environmental savings of converting our heavy duty fleet to CNG. By opening this public station, we will provide more of the needed infrastructure for other local businesses and individuals to choose CNG."

Golden Eagle has been the exclusive distributor of Anheuser-Busch products, as well as other draft beers and imports across most of Arizona, since 1974. The third-generation company is owned by the Clements family and besides Tucson has offices in Buckeye, Casa Grande, Flagstaff, Globe, Show Low, and Tempe, Arizona.



Mike Dawson Field Dedication

On Saturday October 13, Ward 5 Councilmember Richard Fimbres, the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation and the Barrio Centro Neighborhood Association dedicated and unveiled the Mike Dawson field sign at Bristol Park at 1720 S. Bristol Avenue.

"Mike Dawson played on Tucson High School's state championship football team," Ward 5 Councilmember Richard Fimbres said. "Football wasn't the only sport Dawson excelled at. He was a great wrestler as well as a shot putter, for both Tucson High wrestling and track teams."



Councilmember Fimbres continued, "Mike's athletic career didn't end at Tucson High he went on to the U of A and was inducted into their 'Ring of Honor. Dawson received All-American Honors and was the Western Athletic Conference's 'lineman of the year.'

"After his collegiate career, Dawson was a first round draft choice for the St. Louis Cardinals football

Mike Dawson Field Dedication

team; he was one of the first U of A football players to be drafted in the first round by the NFL.

“When his football career ended, he gave to his community, not only as the athlete, but a coach, a mentor and a community servant.

Ocotillo Fall Health and Safety Fair

On Saturday, October 20 the Ocotillo Learning Center was the location for the Ocotillo Fall Health and Safety Fair.

Many community health organizations and groups took part in this event - organized by the Ward 5 Council Office and the Ward 1 and Ward 2 Offices.

This Health Fair also distributed 180 car seat and booster seats as well as 231 bike helmets to children and their families. This was made possible through a grant received by the Tohono O'odham Nation. This application had been sent by my office and for which again, I want to thank Tohono O'odham Chairman Ned Norris and the Nation for their support through this grant.

Jennie Becenti from the Tohono O'odham Nation was present for the event, as well as Dr. Jeanie Favela of SUSU. In addition, Paul Ohm, Principal of Ocotillo is to be thanked for his work and support as well as his staff's efforts.

I also want to acknowledge, Ward 1 Council aide Diana Rhodes, as well as Ward 2 Council aides, Mary Fimbres and Ted Prezelski for their work and attendance. In addition, Maddy Bynes of the Ward 2 office and Amy Santos and Vera Gallego from the Ward 1 office worked on the event as well and should be applauded for helping to make this Fair a success.

I would like to thank the Tucson Police Department and Tucson Fire Department, for their help on this event, holding the safety classes and for distributing the car seats, booster seats and bike helmets.

In addition to the grant, many businesses, governmental entities and organizations helped to make this Fair a reality including: Circle K, Walmart, Quiktrip, Eegee's, Fry's, Costco, Peter Piper Pizza, Golf & Stuff, Food City, Feria de la Lectura, and Ocotillo Learning Center.

Last but not least, I want to thank my interns and staff for their work on the event as well: Javier Herrera, Mark Kerr, Heileen Evans, Jonathan Simpson and Melinda Jacobs.



City News

City Redistricting

This past month, Tucson's Mayor and Council approved a new map of the City Council Wards through the redistricting process. Per City rules, this is done every ten years after the U.S. conducts its decennial Census to count the population.

But unlike the redistricting that is done on the state level for political districts ranging from the U.S. House of Representatives to the State Legislature to the County Board of Supervisors, conducted in the year after a U.S. Census, the City of Tucson conducts theirs in the year following the state efforts because Tucson's elections are held in odd-numbered years and the City must await actions by the Pima County Board of Supervisors in regard to voting precincts.

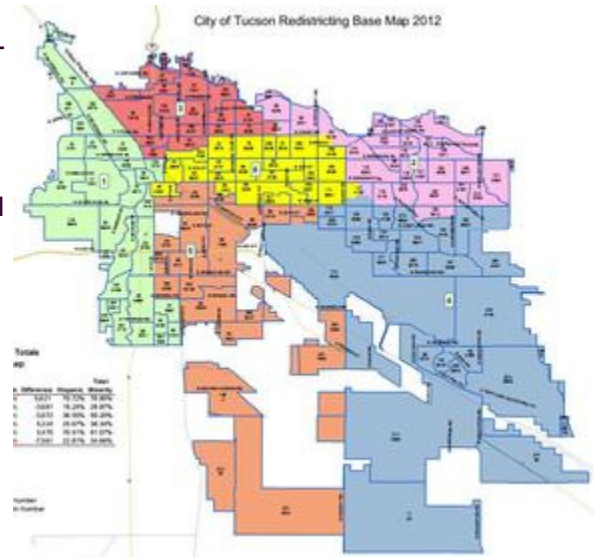
Under the City Charter, Tucson's redistricting is solely based on population and this must not have a deviation of more than ten percent. Which means if the most populated Ward had for example, 100,000 people, the least could not be less than 90,000.

Tucson's Mayor and Council appointed a citizens advisory review committee to review the current map to see if changes needed to be made. In 2002, according to the City Clerk's office, the citizen advisory committee did not make any changes to the Ward map but this wasn't the case for this round, since the 2010 U.S. Census results showed population changes for the Wards, to the tune of more than 15% in deviation from most populated to least populated Wards.

Another factor that this citizen committee had to deal with was the significant changes in the voting precincts. When the Pima County Board of Supervisors approved their maps for Pima County, they also approved the new precinct map, which had only 289 precincts, down from the 417 the previous map had. This was done due to the increased number of people voting early or voting by mail. Pima County's Elections Director, Brad Nelson and his staff, drew up the new boundaries of the voting precincts. Of the reductions in precincts, 94 of them came from the City of Tucson. Tucson now has only 154 precincts, down from the 247 from the last map, so making any changes to a Ward map was made more challenging for the citizens committee.

The citizen's committee accepted the challenge and created two new Ward maps for the Mayor and Council's consideration for which a decision was reached. The approved map will be going to the U.S. Department of Justice for review, under the federal voting rights act and will be in place for the 2013 City of Tucson election.

Questions had arisen about the new boundaries for the voting precincts. The City Clerk reported to the Mayor and Council that the Pima County Division of Elections reviews the voting precinct maps annually and must render a finding by December 1 of each year on these maps. If people have questions or comments they can petition Brad Nelson, the Pima County Election's Director a minimum of one month prior to December 1.



City News

Send the request to Brad Nelson, Director – Pima County Division of Elections, c/o Pima County Elections Department, 6550 S. Country Club Road, Tucson, AZ 85756. For more information, call 724-6830.

Kino Overpass Update

Groundbreaking has already taken place on the Kino Parkway – 22nd Street Intersection improvement project.

This latest project will include a reworking of the intersection of Kino Parkway and 22nd Street, by elevating Kino Parkway over 22nd Street. This new elevation will allow for two continuous lanes of travel (in both directions) with on and off ramps. Under this new overpass 22nd Street will be widened to three lanes of travel in each direction, with exclusive right turn lanes and two left turn lanes to access the new on ramps. In addition to the overpass and widening, there will be new curbs, sidewalks, lighting, bus pullouts, bike lanes, landscaping and public art.



Kino Overpass design concept

On hand for the groundbreaking event were Council Member Richard Fimbres, Tucson's Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, RTA Chair and Mayor of Oro Valley Satish Hiremath, Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee Ivo Ortiz, and Tucson City Manager Richard Miranda.

The Ashton Company, which is located in Ward 5, will be the main contractor for the \$20.6 million project. Construction began in July and is expected to last for two years. Thanks to this project, approximately 181 construction-related jobs will be created. This project is part of the \$2.1 billion voter approved RTA plan, which will progress until 2026.

Ward 5 Announcements

Halloween Health & Safety Tips

For many people, autumn events like Halloween and Harvest Day are fun times to dress up in costumes, go trick-or-treating, attend parties, and eat yummy treats. These events are also opportunities to provide nutritious snacks, get physical activity, and focus on safety.

Check out these tips to help make the festivities fun and safe for trick-or-treaters and party guests!

Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.

Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.

Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.

Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.



Ward 5 Announcements

Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you. Always WALK and don't run from house to house.

Always test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.

Look both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.

Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.

Only walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.

Wear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.

Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.

Enter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit houses. Don't stop at dark houses.

Never accept rides from strangers. Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.

Election 2012

Don't forget that Election Day is Tuesday, November 6th! Please be sure to exercise your right to vote. If you have requested an early ballot, place your voted early ballot in the postage paid envelope provided to you, seal and sign the envelope, then return it to the Pima County Recorder's Office by:

- Mailing it to Pima County Recorder, P.O. Box 3145, Tucson AZ 85702-3145
- Delivering it in person to 115 N. Church Avenue
- Dropping it off at any Pima County polling place on election day.

Please remember that you must sign the ballot envelope in order for your ballot to be processed. Ballots must be returned by 7:00 PM on election day.



Please visit http://www.recorder.pima.gov/public/voter_info.aspx for more information about the polling location closest to you.

Congratulations and Thank You!

Barbecue Cook Off

I want to thank Pastor Grady Scott and James Christopher of the Grace Temple Baptist Church for inviting me to take part in their 4th Annual Grace Temple Baptist Church Laymen Ministry Celebration held at the church in Ward 5 on Saturday, October 13.

Tony Penn of United Way, as well as Minister Leon Morris and I were judges in the annual Q-Off cooking contest. Mr. John Sanders came in third place with Mr. Larry Cunningham coming in second. Mr. Gerald Barlow was the winner of the competition. But I would like to thank and congratulate everyone who participated in the competition as it was great eating all around!

Richard Miranda to be Honored by Sister Cities

I would like to congratulate our City Manager Mr. Richard Miranda. On November 9th, he will be honored at the 40th anniversary celebration of the Tucson Mexico Sister Cities event. Mr. Miranda was a great help with the Vamos a Tucson Baseball Fiesta held earlier this month.

For more information about the Tucson Mexico Sister Cities Event, call 548-8881 or 404-2917.

Frequently Used Phone Numbers

Emergency Services

Tucson Police Department or Tucson Fire Department
DIAL 911

Permits

Planning and Development Services Department
791-5550

Housing Assistance

City of Tucson Community Services Department
791-4739

Tucson Convention Center

791-4101

Code Enforcement & Graffiti Removal

792-CITY (2489)

Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department
791-3171

Transportation & Street Maintenance

Tucson Department of Transportation
791-3154

Tucson Water Department

Billing - 791-3242
Public Information - 791-4331

ParkWise

791-5071

Pima Animal Care

387-7502



Community Food Bank

**Help those who are in need.
Give to the Community Food Bank.
For more information call: 520-622-0525**

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